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## A Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude of Staff Nurses Regarding the Inhibition of Vertical Transmission of HIV at a Selected Maternity Hospital, Bangalore

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**Introduction:** Vertical transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from mother to child, also known as perinatal transmission, accounts for almost all new HIV infections in children. Vertical transmission occurs when HIV is spread from an HIV+ woman to her baby during pregnancy, labor and delivery or breastfeeding. For an HIV+ woman not being treated for HIV, the chance of passing the virus to her child is about 25% during pregnancy, labor and delivery. If she breastfeeds her infant, there is an additional 12% chance of transmission. Vertical transmission can be Antepartum, Intrapartum and Postpartum. The transmission of HIV from an infected mother to her child can be reduced to less than two percent by intensive interventions in the antenatal, intranatal and postnatal periods. The methods includes primary prevention of HIV infection, early identification of seropositivity in pregnant women, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by appropriate antiretroviral therapy, special interventions in maternal management during labour, appropriate care and follow up of the newborn. Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, are highly effective in preventing the transmission of HIV.

**Aims:** To assess the knowledge and attitude of staff nurses regarding the inhibition of vertical transmission of HIV.

**Methodology:** Non-experimental – Descriptive co-relational design was adopted. Convenience sampling technique was used to select the 60 staff nurses Staff nurses who are working in selected maternity hospital, Bangalore.

**Material:** Structured knowledge questionnaire and 3 point Likert was used to obtain information regarding knowledge and attitude of staff nurses regarding inhibition of vertical transmission of HIV.

**Results:** The results revealed that majority 52 (86.7%) of the staff nurses have moderately adequate knowledge and 35 (58.3%) of staff nurses had unfavorable attitude. The demographic variables such as age and years of working experience in maternity ward shows significant association with the level of knowledge of the staff nurses regarding the inhibition of vertical transmission of HIV while the other demographic variables have no influence. Demographic variables does not have much influence with the level of attitude of the staff nurses except the age and years of working experience in maternity ward shows significant association with the level of attitude of staff nurses regarding the inhibition of vertical transmission of HIV.

**Conclusion:** Nurses are playing an important role in disease prevention and health promotion. In the present study, nurses have inadequate knowledge and this should be improved by providing in-service education, conducting workshops and conferences on this area and developing an Institutional protocol for the provision of awareness for a better future.

**Key words:** Knowledge; attitude; inhibition of vertical transmission.

### Biography

Chanchal Huidrom is currently working as Tutor in GNM School of Nursing, Churachandpur, under Government of Manipur since last October 4th 2018 till date. Completed my BSc. Nursing from Manipal College of Nursing, Manipal in 2011 and MSc. Nursing from Padmashree College of Nursing, RGUHS, Bangalore in 2014 with 77%. Have one year teaching experience in Royal college of Nursing, Imphal after BSc. Nursing and also worked as an Assistant professor in School of Nursing, Sharda University and Greater Noida – U.P for 4 years 2 months after MSc. (N).